

# GreenPower News

A weekly update from Western's Renewable Resources Program covering green power, reports and studies and funding.

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## Green Power

### Deadline approaches for Spring 2013 NABCEP Solar PV, Solar Heating, Technical Sales Exams

The final date for the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) [spring certification exams](#) is April 20. Applicants must complete an application and submit it with required documentation and fee prior to that date. Applications for PV technical sales, PV installer and solar heating installer are available online. Contact [Kristine Reynolds](#) for more information. *Source: North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners, 4/2/13*

### Welcome to AWEA Community Wind

Wind energy projects that incorporate local financial participation and control are known as "community wind" projects. Community wind projects encompass a wide range of sizes and project types. Some examples include:

- 1- to 100-kilowatt net-metered home and farm-based systems
- Mid-size single-turbine projects at schools and businesses

- Wind-diesel village power projects
- Multi-megawatt wind farms owned by co-ops and munis
- Wind farms comprising tens of megawatts and an independent power producer arrangement.

The smaller size and local ownership aspects of community wind provide challenges and benefits compared to conventional, third-party or investor-owned utility projects that are typically larger, more readily financeable and able to make efficient use of the Production Tax Credit. [Read more](#). *Source: American Wind Energy Association 3/25/13*

## **Solar will be second-biggest source of U.S. power added in 2013**

Solar power will be the second- biggest source of generating capacity added to the U.S. electric grid this year, according to Sharp Corp. (6753)'s Recurrent Energy unit.

"Solar is going to move into the No. 2 position in terms of new build, second only to gas," Recurrent Chief Executive Officer Arno Harris said in an interview yesterday at the company's main office in San Francisco.

Rooftop solar systems can be installed for about \$4 a watt and utility-scale systems for \$2 a watt, Harris said. "We can see our way to \$1.50," he said. "At those kinds of costs, we're competitive in the Southwest with conventional electricity." [Read more](#). *Source: Bloomberg, 3/21/13*

## **Assaults on successful state renewable energy standards continue**

Recently in Gray County, Kansas (population 6,005), schools bought iPads for their classrooms—a purchase previously unthinkable in this time of shrinking budgets-- thanks to contributions made to the county by a local wind farm. In rural Cloud County, Kansas, three tiny towns now have gas stations, an enterprise made possible by wind farm contributions to a county economic development fund. The renovation of the Brown Grand Theater, in Concordia, Kansas, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is being funded in part by contributions from wind farms. Small towns across the state are reinventing themselves with millions of dollars of wind revenues being poured into education, small businesses, and community development. And Kansas now produces enough clean, renewable wind energy to power about 800,000 homes in the region. That's enough electricity, for example, to run every household in Nebraska, and then some. [Read more](#). *Source: NRDC Switchboard, 3/20/13*

**Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.**

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## **Reports and studies**

## California ISO releases 2012-2013 transmission plan

The 2012-2013 California Independent System Operator Corporation transmission plan is a comprehensive evaluation of the ISO transmission grid. It identifies upgrades needed to successfully meet California's policy goals and examines conventional grid reliability requirements and projects that can bring economic benefits to consumers. The transmission plan is annually updated and describes the transmission necessary to meet the state's 33 percent RPS goals. [Download the report](#). Source: *California Independent System Operator Corporation*, 3/22/13

## President Obama's blueprint for a clean and secure energy future

The United States is on the path to a cleaner and more secure energy future. Since President Obama took office, responsible oil and gas production has increased each year, while oil imports have fallen to a 20 year low; renewable electricity generation from wind, solar, and geothermal sources has doubled; And our emissions of the dangerous carbon pollution that threatens our planet have fallen to their lowest level in nearly two decades. In short, the President's approach is working. It's a winning strategy for the economy, energy security, and the environment. [Read more](#). Source: *White House, Office of the Press Secretary*, 3/15/13

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

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## Funding

### USDA Funding Opportunity for Renewable Energy System and Energy Efficiency Improvement Projects

**Applications due: Varies by application type (April 30, 2013 and July 15, 2013)**

Eligible entities: Agricultural producers and rural small business

USDA is seeking applications to provide assistance to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. Funding is available from USDA's Rural Energy for America Program (REAP). The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) remains focused on carrying out its mission to strengthen the rural economy, despite significant budget uncertainty.

REAP, authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 Farm Bill, is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the nation's critical energy needs.

USDA is accepting the following applications:

- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications until April 30, 2013;
- Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement guaranteed loan only applications until July 15, 2013;
- Renewable energy system feasibility study grant applications through April 30, 2013.

Information on how to apply for funding is available in the [March 29, 2013, Federal Register](#). *Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 4/5/13*

## **Tribal Energy Program Technical Assistance**

### **Applications due: Rolling submission**

The Tribal Energy Program provides federally recognized Indian tribes, bands, nations, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized groups and communities—including Alaska Native villages or regional and village corporations—with technical assistance designed to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Technical assistance is typically limited to 40 hours and may include, but is not limited to, the following priority areas:

- Strategic energy planning
- Grantee support
- Transmission/interconnection
- Project development
- Finance
- Lease agreements

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) laboratories—[National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) or [Sandia National Laboratories](#)—provide the technical assistance.

### **How to Apply**

The application process is quick and easy: simply complete the [technical assistance request form](#).

The program will then determine whether your request fits within the program's scope and can be met with available resources. If approved, your request will be forwarded to the appropriate DOE national laboratory representative, who will contact you before beginning work. *Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 4/5/13*

## **Science and Sustainable and Healthy Tribes – New Funding Opportunity from EPA STAR**

### **Applications due: June 25, 2013**

A new Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Request for Applications (RFA) called [Science for Sustainable and Healthy Tribes](#) focuses on climate change and indoor air pollution and impacts on tribal communities.

This RFA solicits applications on research to develop sustainable solutions to environmental problems that affect Tribes. The RFA submission deadline is June 25, 2013.

Component research areas include:

- Science to understand the health impacts of climate change on tribal populations
- Science to understand the health impacts of indoor air pollution exposures that derive from or are directly affecting traditional tribal life-ways and cultural practices
- Development of sustainable, culturally appropriate, and acceptable pollution prevention and adaptation/mitigation strategies
- Community involvement in the design, acceptance, and implementation of the mitigation and adaptation approaches
- Focus on impacts to vulnerable sub-populations of Tribal communities.

Please apply and also share with your networks. For questions please contact [Cynthia McOliver](#). *Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 4/5/13*

**Find more [funding sources](#).**

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